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TRIAL.

BYRNE *against* PARKINS.

TO THE

Subscribers to the Fund for Byrne.

Kensington, 19th February, 1824.

GENTLEMEN,

I, who so strenuously recommended you to subscribe your money, and who so often told you that we might be certain that our money would be *safe in the hands of Mr. Parkins*: I, who so frequently bestowed praises on the conduct of Mr. PARKINS, owe it to the public, and especially to you, to do the best I can in order to place this matter fairly before you. Knowing (what every one knew), the great riches of Mr. PARKINS, and the great zeal with which he espoused the cause of

this unfortunate man, made it impossible for me to believe, that the money which was placed in his hands, would not be applied to the proper purpose. Many gentlemen did express their regret, that the subscription was committed to Mr. PARKINS; but he had *got hold of it*: possession is nine points of the law: he had leisure for the thing: he was active; and, without a public quarrel with him, it was impossible to take it out of his hands. One gentleman observed to me: "*You must have a quarrel with him, first or last.*" I thought, however, that we should get together three hundred pounds, in a few weeks; and I never dreamed that we should not be able to get it placed in the hands of BYRNE.

The event proved that I was

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deceived. Mr. PARKINS always avoided a settlement. Whenever a settlement was mentioned, he flew off. He kept BYRNE quiet by giving him two pounds a week. This, however, did not go on long in a quiet manner. He began to be *passionate* with BYRNE every time the poor fellow went to ask for the money. BYRNE made complaint to me; but I had no power over Mr. PARKINS. I sent to him once, respecting a settlement with BYRNE; but the reception which he gave to my messenger convinced me that I could do nothing with him. He soon came from abuse to the stopping of payment altogether; so that BYRNE and his wife and family were in a fair way of being passed home to Ireland as paupers, for any thing that Mr. PARKINS would do to prevent it. All complaints, all prayers, remonstrances and threats, were in vain. Nothing short of an appeal to the law, appeared to afford any chance of success; but where was the money, to go

to law with? How was this poor man to go to law? At last Mr. HARMER very generously undertook to bring the action. The trial, which was the result of this action, took place on Monday last. It had excited a great deal of interest, and it took up one half of the day. I shall insert the report of it here, just as I find that report in the Morning Chronicle; though I must observe that this report contains a mere sketch of what actually took place. When I have inserted the report, I shall make some further remarks.

COURT OF KING'S BENCH,
Monday, February 16th.

[Sittings before the Chief Justice,
Westminster.]

BYRNE v. PARKINS.—Mr. PATTERSON opened the pleadings. The action, he said, was brought to recover several sums of money received by the defendant for the plaintiff's use, which he refused to pay. The damages were laid at 500*l*.

Mr. CHARLES PHILLIPS stated the case. He began by lamenting that he should have a case like the present to state against any man. The defendant had lately filled the office of High Sheriff of London, and was so well known, that not to know Mr. Ex-Sheriff Parkins would argue that one must be himself unknown. He was known to be a man who interest-

ed himself in the affairs of almost every other man in the community. The plaintiff was equally known for his misfortunes; he did not wish to allude more than was necessary to a transaction from which, all who felt for the honour of our common nature must turn with loathing. But his client had become known for his sufferings and misfortunes. He filled an humble situation in Ireland, in which he became known to a person who had lately fled from this country. It became the duty of Byrne to God and man to accuse that high person of an offence at which nature shudders. Byrne was poor, the culprit he accused was rich—he was a Bishop. It was thought proper by the Bishop and his friends that he should prosecute Byrne for daring to accuse him, and that exalted person, as he then was in office and public estimation, attested on the gospels of truth, that he was falsely accused by Byrne. Byrne was convicted, and suffered a dreadful punishment. It pleased God to afford to this afflicted man the consolation of believing that he was not to go down to his grave the victim of perjury—his accuser had been detected in his guilt—he had fled, and Byrne was restored to the character he had never done any thing to forfeit. The story of Byrne's sufferings naturally excited the commiseration of the people of this country.

The CHIEF JUSTICE here asked Mr. Phillips, whether the cause might not be advantageously settled out of Court?

Mr. PHILLIPS replied, that his instructions required that the cause should proceed. The Learned Gentleman continued—A subscription was set on foot to enable Byrne, who had been ruined by the false accusation brought against him, to support his wife and seven children. Mr. Parkins saw this subscription advancing—he thought money was to be made by it, and he determined to seize the golden opportunity. He wrote to Byrne to come over to this

country, promising him that his fortune would be certain. Byrne, delighted with the flattering prospect, lost no time in coming over, when he found the Ex-Sheriff had appointed himself Treasurer to the subscription, and had taken the trouble of receiving the money; but poor Byrne did not then suspect that it was not the Ex-Sheriff's intention to disburse. Nothing could exceed Byrne's gratitude to his benefactor, who promised him a flowing subscription; to set him up in business; to take a house for him; to purchase coach and horses for him; in short to make his fortune. Byrne and the Ex-Sheriff were at that time two of the happiest mortals. Byrne was to get money, and the Ex-Sheriff to get character, which was precisely what they both wanted [a laugh]. In the midst of all the Ex-Sheriff's promises to Byrne, he had an eye to what he never forgets, himself; he had a house, coach-house, and stables to let, and he put Byrne and his family to live in the house and show the premises, by which he was saved the expense of keeping a person for that purpose. Poor Byrne was glad to get a roof over his head, and was truly grateful for his patron's great kindness. The Ex-Sheriff proceeded in his career of benevolence—he advertised for subscriptions for poor Byrne in all the newspapers—he got up public meetings and public dinners, where he was forced to take the chair, very much against his will, and even most reluctantly to toast his own health, and make speeches in his own praise. He ate till every one thought he was full, and spoke till every one was convinced he was empty [a laugh]. Every day brought additions to the fame of the Ex-Sheriff, till the fatal day which called on him to account—the Ex-Sheriff was acquainted with the drama—he thought that none but slaves should pay. Byrne asked him, had he not received for him? the Ex-Sheriff said yes, but he held in trust for the people, and when the sum became a round one

he would buy him a coach; Byrne said, if he was to wait till then, it was a hearse he'd have occasion for, as he should die of hunger. "You monster of ingratitude," exclaimed the Ex-Sheriff, "do you forget the two-pence halfpenny I gave you in the Shades?" And here, said the Learned Gentleman, holding up a paper, is the two-pence halfpenny charged in the Ex-Sheriff's account [a laugh]. It was impossible for Byrne to obtain any justice from the Ex-Sheriff, and he was enabled by those who had hearts to feel for his distress and his injuries, to bring the present action to compel Parkins to restore the money with which he was entrusted. What would the Jury and the public think of a man, who could take advantage of misfortune like Byrne's, who could make that misfortune and the charity of the public pander to his avarice and his vanity? When Parkins was pressed to render an account, and saw it could not be delayed, he produced an account of his disbursements very different from the set-off he now undertakes to prove, although there had been no subsequent transactions between the parties. No doubt his Attorney had advised the alteration, for some of the charges were too shameful for the conscience of any Attorney to sanction. One of the charges made against Byrne by the Ex-Sheriff was 5*l.* 12*s.*, for publishing a pamphlet to vindicate his own character. If the pamphlet produced that effect, it was certainly very cheap [a laugh]; but that was no reason that poor Byrne should pay. The Ex-Sheriff might make his mind easy about his character, for it was certainly the last thing any one would wish to take from him [laughter]. The Jury would judge of the charges. Parkins having elected himself Treasurer, paraded poor Byrne from tavern to tavern for the gratification of his vanity, and this was one of his reasons for refusing to pay Byrne his money. Advertisements were published in every paper, and the name

of Parkins, the friend of justice and humanity, and Byrne, was placarded on every wall. He beat little Waddington, and even Day and Martin, and the Bonassus, out of the field [much laughter]. By these means, for all of which he charged poor Byrne, the Ex-Sheriff so greatly added to his celebrity, that he was not very far, in his own opinion, from being returned a Member of Parliament, and had a very narrow escape of a French Peerage [continued laughter]. He put himself forward as the champion of humanity, and drank deep of the cup of popularity, for all which he wishes to make Byrne pay. He charges in his set-off 12*l.* 18*s.* for clerks he had before he ever heard of Byrne—he might as well charge him for his horses, for his liveries, or for the expense of his Arundel Petition, or any other notoriety trap. If the money was all turned into brass, it could not equal the brass of the man that made the charge. But the next charge capped the climax—Would they believe that the Ex-Sheriff actually charged Byrne, the creature of public charity, 54*l.* rent, at the rate of 104*l.* a year, for the house he put him to live in for his own convenience? and he now calls upon the Jury to sanction that charge by their verdict; they should consider the effect such a verdict would have on the national accent; if it were to go to Cork and Tipperary that Byrne was able to pay a rent of 104*l.* a year for a house, by the next fair wind they would have such flights of Irishmen as would be sufficient to naturalize the Irish tongue in this country [laughter].—The Learned Gentleman here read the charge for rent from the set-off, and asked, was ever any thing so shameless and abandoned? Byrne, who had not a shoe to his foot, who was not able to keep a cat, was to be charged rent for a coach-house and two sets of stables; did it not stamp reprobation on the whole set-off? Parkins knew that Byrne was a ruined man—that he had a wife and seven children in a starving condi-

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tion, with nothing but his tears and misfortunes for their support; and, while he was in this state, Parkins wanted the Jury to believe that he took him as a solvent tenant, at a rent of 104*l.* a year. He (Mr. Phillips) had seen many cases of injustice and fraud, but it was for the Ex-Sheriff to give the example of wealth pilfering from charity and misfortune, while boasting of being the champion of injured innocence. Byrne thought he had met with a good Samaritan, but all the Ex-Sheriff's professions were but the false dice with which he gambled for popularity, and after he had obtained it, he charged Byrne with all the cost of the acquisition, and a profit for himself. It would be proved that Parkins admitted he had received 300*l.* for Byrne, after which he received 5*l.* from Sir Francis Burdett. By his set-off, he says, he disbursed all; but it would be proved that he gave as a reason for not paying Byrne, that if he got the money he would abandon his family—thus adding slander to injustice. He hoped the Jury would, by their verdict, show that they were not to be imposed upon by the set-off of the Ex-Sheriff; that their verdict would take from him the public money with which he was entrusted, which trust he had abused, and would give to the poor man what the public benevolence intended he should receive, and would show to all, that in this country, character is only to be raised on the basis of honour and virtue.—[On the conclusion of this speech a burst of applause took place.]

Charles Scott examined by Mr. BATTERSBY: I was in the employment of Mr. Parkins, and left him for some time, but returned in October 1822; I had then a conversation with him about Byrne; Mr. Parkins said the subscription for Byrne was going on wonderfully, he had then received about 300*l.*; Sir Francis Burdett after that paid a subscription of 5*l.*; I frequently after saw Byrne and Parkins together, in January or February 1823. Byrne de-

manded the money from Parkins, who replied that he would dispose of it as he thought proper—he could obtain for him a Pinlico stage. Byrne said he wanted the money to establish a public-house. I never heard Parkins say that Byrne was indebted to him.—Lemoine was clerk to Parkins in November 1822; there were 50 or 60 *British Traveller* newspapers brought to the office, and sent to the country to Mr. Parkins's friends; they contained an account of the dinner given at the Horns Tavern, and a mark was made on each paper to direct the attention to it. I was at the dinner; there were a great number of persons present.

The witness was cross-examined by Mr. MARRYATT, and stated that an account was kept of the subscriptions received, but he did not know that any was kept of the disbursements. He did not think Mr. Cobbett took any part in promoting the dinner.

Mr. Cobbett examined by Mr. PHILLIPS: I know Mr. Parkins, and have had several conversations with him on the subject of a subscription for Byrne. I had one in September 1822, before Byrne arrived in England. Parkins said he had written to Dublin, and proposed to send 100*l.* to some Newspaper Editors there for Byrne. I expressed my surprise he had got so much; he said he had then about 150*l.* Early in the month of Nov. 1822, I saw Mr. Parkins, and inquired how Byrne maintained himself? and then told Parkins I had a friend in the country, where I could place Byrne, where his expences would be very little, and I would pay it out of my pocket. Mr. Parkins objected, and said Byrne was living in a building of his, which would cost him nothing for rent; he also objected to Byrne's going to the country, as he wanted him to go about with him to hold meetings to raise money.

Cross-examined by Mr. MARRYATT: At the time of my first conversation with Parkins, I heard nothing about

coach and horses; I never wrote to Byrne; I had no consultation with Parkins about how he should dispose of the money; my plan was to raise 300*l.* for Byrne, and give it to him at once to set up a public-house, or take stables.

By Mr. PHILLIPS: What I gave I meant should go to Byrne.

Catharine Byrne, examined by Mr. BATTERSEY: I am daughter of the plaintiff; I remember Mr. Parkins coming to my mother on the 20th of May last; he gave her a paper [paper produced.] I lived with my father in the house; Mr. Parkins put him in; there was a bill on the place, to let it.

On her cross-examination, she said she did not know her father meant to keep a livery stable. He received hay and straw for Mr. Parkins. Letters produced are my father's writing.

The paper produced by the witness, as given to her mother by Mr. Parkins, was then read: it contained a statement of English subscriptions, amounting to 12*l.* 8*s.* 0*d.*

Mr. Robert Bell, examined by Mr. PHILLIPS: I know Mr. Parkins very well; I have had a great many conversations with him on the subscription for Byrne; he always declared to me that he had received considerably more than he gave Byrne. The reason he gave for not paying Byrne was, "Do you think I'd give the scoundrel the money, that was going to quit his wife and children and leave them chargeable on some darish?" Mr. Parkins said, he had done better for Byrne than getting him a coach and horses; he had employed him to take care of his stables, and he was then in his employment. Cross-examined by Mr. MARRYATT: Thinks it was in March last, Parkins said he had more money than he paid Byrne. —The case for the plaintiff closed here.

Mr. MARRYATT addressed the Jury for the defendant. It was evident, he said, the action was not brought to recover money. The speech of the Learned Counsel was full of invective

against the plaintiff. Mr. Parkins had rendered an account of every shilling received down to May last, and no human being was called to prove one shilling paid for which he had not accounted. There was also a subscription in Ireland and York, which might make Parkins say it was going on well—300*l.* subscribed; but he had it not in hand, and if there was any defalcation, it would be easily made appear. He would discharge Parkins of the 15*l.*—he received a much larger sum. The collection ceased, as far as Parkins was concerned, in April 1823, and he received none after. The Learned Gentleman here read a letter from Byrne to Parkins, in which he said, "I cannot express my gratitude, and beg you will continue to receive the subscription of which you are the father." Different plans were in contemplation for providing for Byrne; one was, keeping a livery-stable, where it was supposed Irish friends would keep horses; he did actually buy hay and straw for the purpose, and receive them in the premises he held for Parkins, and from which Parkins had 90*gs.* a year from the Royal Exchange Insurance Office before he let it to Byrne. He would not inquire whether Byrne was put into the premises as a tenant, but there certainly was a time when he was so considered, both by Parkins and himself, and there was but half a year's rent and taxes charged. Mr. Parkins calculated on receiving more than 300*l.* when he had the conversation with Mr. Cobbett, but he was disappointed, and he had given Byrne, and paid for him, more than he had received, and instead of pocketing any thing, was considerably in advance, as he would prove.

Louis Lemoine, examined by Mr. ARCHBOLD, stated, that he had been employed by Mr. Parkins to make out Byrne's account; there was an account of the receipts and disbursements kept in one of the books in the defendant's office.

CHIEF JUSTICE: Was the defend-

ant following any business at the time?—We kept books for taking up the cause of injured individuals [a great laugh].—There was a payment made for Newspapers to send to Ireland; and 2*l.* a week was paid to Byrne for some time.

Mr. PHILLIPS said he was perfectly willing to admit any payments made to Byrne.

The witness proved several payments, one of which was 9*l.* 6*s.* to himself for keeping Byrne's account. Byrne occupied Mr. Parkins's house and stables for some time after he came to England; for two or three months, to witness's knowledge.—Byrne asked witness if he knew what rent he was to pay. Witness replied he did not, and advised him to ask Mr. Parkins. He said he could not find an opportunity, but said, let Mr. Parkins charge him what he would, he'd pay him. Byrne told witness he had got an estimate of alterations to be made in part of the premises, to make a coalshed for his wife to keep.

Cross-examined by Mr. PHILLIPS: I was about eight or nine weeks employed by Mr. Parkins on Byrne's business. Byrne complained to me that he could not get money from Parkins; he never said, that when he said to Parkins that if he gave him the money his prayers and his family's would go up to heaven for him, Parkins said, D—— you and your prayers. Witness here admitted a letter, produced by Mr. Phillips, to be in his hand-writing, and then admitted Byrne had stated to him the answer from Mr. Parkins in the former question, and also told him, that he had proposed to Parkins, if he would give him the balance, he would be done with him. Mr. Parkins had a great deal of general business, writing and answering letters to noblemen and gentlemen. Part of witness's business was going after the tin boxes where the subscriptions were received. Byrne had neither coach nor horses at the stable. Did not see a till on the premises. Mr. Parkins made up the money witness received for doing

Byrne's business, 10*l.* or 11*l.*; he wrote for Mr. Parkins when he wanted him. The entry of 9*l.* 16*s.* to witness, in the book, is not in his hand-writing; he does not think it is Parkins's.—Re-examined: Byrne never complained to witness that Parkins would not pay him, till after witness had left Parkins. Byrne said he was in expectation of horses.

Henry Taylor, examined by Mr. KNOWLES: I was Mr. Parkins's clerk in Jan. 1823, and frequently paid money to Byrne, of which I made entries in the general day-book; he also saw money paid by another clerk, amounting in the whole to 2*l.* a-week, for twenty weeks.

Mr. PHILLIPS said he would admit payments to that amount.

Witness: I heard Byrne say he entered into Parkins's premises with the intention of keeping livery stables; he requested Mr. Parkins to write letters to gentlemen to keep their horses with him; witness wrote such letters afterwards at Mr. Parkins's desire. Besides the two pounds a-week to Byrne, Mr. Parkins paid several sums on his account for advertisements, postage, &c.

Joseph Gill examined by Mr. MARRIOTT: Was clerk to Mr. Parkins; paid taxes on the premises held by Byrne.

Cross-examined by Mr. PHILLIPS: Witness is a valet and brother-in-law to Mr. Parkins.

Joseph Stephenson knows Mr. Parkins's premises, in Ridinghouse-lane; they were let for 90 guineas a year, from 1820 to 1822, to the Royal Exchange Insurance Company; Byrne occupied them about six months.—Charles Swift, a clerk of Mr. Parkins, proved payments to Byrne, and on his account.

A Clerk of a banking-house proved that they received subscriptions for Byrne; the first was paid by Mr. Parkins; the whole amounts to 114*l.*, which was still in their hands.

Mr. Mayor, a surveyor, proved that he was sent by Parkins to value the premises in which Byrne lived; Par-

kins told him he had brought Byrne over from Ireland, and put him into that house to keep it for him.

On his cross-examination, the witness was asked, did he not tell Parkins he was employed by Government to buy up the Princess of Cumberland's papers, and had offered her 25,000*l.* for them? He replied, Nonsense! Mr. Parkins knows more of the Princess of Cumberland than I do [a laugh]. The defendant's case closed here.

Mr. PHILLIPS shortly addressed the Jury on the evidence.

The CHIEF JUSTICE read over the evidence to the Jury, leaving it to them to decide whether the defendant had accounted for all the money he had received for the plaintiff's use.

The Jury retired, taking with them all the papers, and in about a quarter of an hour returned a verdict for the Plaintiff—194*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.*

Here, then, we have the decision of a Jury impartially taken from amongst the people. According to Mr. PARKINS's account, he owed poor BYRNE nothing, or next to nothing. According to the account of the Jury, he owed him a hundred and ninety-four pounds four shillings and four-pence. It would be a waste of time to say any thing in order to show that the Jury was right; but there is this remark to make, which appears to have escaped every one; namely, what reason could there be for PARKINS not to come to a settle-

ment in the month of November or December 1822? What right had

he to keep the subscription money in his hands, after that period?

What right had he to dole out a weekly allowance to BYRNE? He was doling it out of a sum which

he had in his hands. According to his own account, he doled out about *fifty pounds in this way.*

The Chief Justice, in his summing up, observed that these weekly sums amounted to about fifty pounds, as near as he could

make it out. Well, then, PARKINS had these fifty pounds in his hands; for he does not pretend that he advanced the weekly payments out of his own money. He states the contrary in his account.

What right had he, then, to dole the money out in this way? He took upon himself the office of Treasurer, just as I did recently in the case of poor SWANN. But had I the impudence to keep the subscription money and dole it out weekly? As soon as I had got the money collected together, I sent it to a gentleman at Liver-

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pool, who carried it to SWANN, and left part of it with him at Chester; and, at SWANN's request, carried the rest to Stockport, and gave it to his wife. Here was a thing begun, continued and ended in the course of a few weeks. The benevolence of the subscribers produced, at once, its natural effects: comfort to the poor man and his family, and their gratitude towards those who had communicated that comfort. If the subscription for BYRNE had been managed in the same sort of way, this most ill-used and meritorious man would at this moment have been, in all probability, comfortably situated with his family, instead of having been compelled to live upon the benevolence of a few compassionate friends in London. Let it always be borne in mind, that PARKINS doled out to BYRNE his *own money*; and that he loaded him with abuse, every time he came to ask for a portion of that money.

Another thing to observe is, the shamelessness of charging

BYRNE's account with *postage*, sealing-wax, and clerkship. Suppose I had charged poor SWANN with sealing-wax, clerkship, and postage. Monstrous! Suppose I had charged SWANN with the expenses of the gentleman, who travelled from Liverpool to Chester; who staid, I believe, a night at Chester, who then went all across the county of Chester to Stockport; who then returned to Liverpool, and who wrote to me several pages respecting the state of SWANN and his family: suppose I had charged the subscription with these expenses, what would the public have said of me? That which it would have said of me, let it now say of Mr. PARKINS.

It appears that he gives credit for a total receipt of one hundred and fifty pounds, some odd shillings and pence. In my evidence I stated,—that, in September (1822), before BYRNE came from Ireland, PARKINS told me that he had already, about a hundred and fifty pounds. I stated the fact of his having told me, that he had

written to Ireland and had *offered to transmit a hundred pounds to Dublin*. Now, if he really did write such a letter; if he did offer to send a hundred pounds to Dublin before BYRNE came to England; who will believe, that he, who charges poor BYRNE with the very sealing-wax; who will believe, that he had not more than a hundred pounds in his hands when he made such offer?

That he did make such offer can be proved by several witnesses, and from his own handwriting. There was a letter of BYRNE put in by Mr. MARRIATT and read in Court as part of the evidence. In this letter (which, by the by, does great honour to BYRNE), there is mention made of a Mr. S. PARKINS showed me this letter, soon after he received it, and told me that this Mr. S. was a Mr. STANTON, the editor of a newspaper, to whom he had intended to send a hundred pounds for BYRNE. I advised him not to send a hundred pounds; but, to keep it till we could add two hun-

dred to it; to send for BYRNE over in the mean time; and, when he came, give him the three hundred pounds *at once*; and, by no means to suffer any division of it. Now, there is proof positive of PARKINS's having offered to send the hundred pounds. I have not seen BYRNE since the trial; but but I am almost certain, that he himself, before he left Dublin, saw Parkins's letter, offering to send the hundred pounds. In short, this fact can be established by the clearest and most positive evidence.

Again I ask you, then, Gentlemen, will you believe that this PARKINS; this man who charges this all but crucified victim, as he calls him; will you believe that this man, who charges for the sealing-wax, who charges for clerkship; will you believe that this man, who charges BYRNE at the rate of a hundred and four pounds a year rent; will you believe that this man, whose hands appear to have been birdlime as to the money of BYRNE; will you

believe that this man, whose irritation at being called upon for a settlement, is equal to that of HARPAGON when he discovers the loss of his casket; will you, Gentlemen, believe that this man would have offered to send a hundred pounds to Ireland for the use of BYRNE, if he had not had more than a hundred pounds of BYRNE's money in his hands at this time? He made this offer early in September, if not in August. Every one knows that a great deal of money was subscribed after that; and yet, he now gives in an account, making the whole of the collections amount to *only a hundred and fifty-one pounds!*

I beg you, Gentlemen, to look well at these facts. He acknowledges the receipt of one hundred and thirty-four pounds, *after Byrne came from Ireland.* He came, I think, about the middle of September, 1822. Before his arrival, PARKINS had offered to send a hundred pounds to Ireland for him. He acknowledges, as I

have just observed, the receipt of a hundred and thirty-four pounds after BYRNE came. Now mark me, then, if what he says were true; if his account were not false, he had but *seventeen pounds* in hand, at the time when he offered to send a hundred pounds to Ireland for BYRNE!

However, what did we see upon the trial? We saw produced a book, in which the *disbursements* for poor BYRNE were entered in great detail; but in which, observe, there was no entry of *receipts* for BYRNE. This book appears to have been kept by the witness LE MOINE; but this book had been altered by *another hand than that of Le Moine; charges had been interlined; and an alteration had been made in the total.*

Monstrous! And this book was produced, Gentlemen, by the man who was the depositary of your benevolence. There is not, perhaps, on record any thing to equal this. Gil Blas tells us, that DON MANUEL ORDONNEZ (the Steward of a public charity), was so vir-

tuous and so pious a man, and so favoured by Providence in consequence thereof, that he "got rich in taking care of the concerns of the poor."! The success of this pious personage would seem to have given encouragement to our matchless Ex-Sheriff, who actually keeps an Office "for taking up the cause of injured individuals," and who, had it not been for the generosity of Mr. HARMER, the zeal and the talents of Mr. PHILLIPS, and the justice of the Judge and Jury, would have cleared a hundred and ninety-four pounds four shillings and four-pence, by taking up the cause of poor Byrne!

The result of this trial was at great gratification to me, who had long felt indignant at the treatment which BYRNE and his family received at the hands of PARKINS; but who had not the power to obtain him any sort of redress. I was also highly gratified by hearing Mr. PHILLIPS, who conducted his case with great ability. The Morning Chronicle says, that Mr.

PHILLIPS *shortly* replied. It is not right to get in this manner out of the making of a long report. Mr. Phillips's reply occupied better than half an hour, and not one moment of the time unnecessarily. I have never heard many speeches at the bar. I do not pretend to be a very good judge of the matter; but this I must say, that I never heard at the bar, speeches to please me better than those delivered by Mr. PHILLIPS on this occasion. He was eloquent, pointed, strong, and, what pleased me exceedingly, (and I am sure it had great effect upon the Jury), every word he uttered breathed *sincerity*. In characterizing PARKINS and his conduct, he judiciously stopped short of what truth would have fully warranted, and of what the Jury were sure to infer. There is one fault, in speakers at the bar, which is so common that I sat in great anxiety lest I should meet with it here again; namely, five or six, or nine or ten *endings* of the speech. "I will keep you but

a moment longer, Gentlemen." I have heard this *fifteen times* in one speech! This is a fault not by any means confined to young men, or to men without talent. It arises, as SWIFT observes, from the want of that greatest of all pieces of knowledge in writers and speakers, "knowing *when to stop*." Mr. PHILLIPS's speeches were singularly happy in this respect. In his reply, there was one instance or two of rather literal repetition, and not quite necessary. There was also a little omission with regard to the account that was interlined and new totalled. The character of that account was not sufficiently described, and the strong *influence* which it afforded was not sufficiently dwelt on; but, with these exceptions, (and they do not amount to much), the speeches of Mr. PHILLIPS were, in my opinion, such as to merit unqualified praise. I was particularly pleased with the earnestness and the manifest sincerity of the speaker; and, as one of the subscribers

to the fund for poor BYRNE, I beg him to accept of my best thanks. His manner of conducting his case was as *judicious* as his speeches were eloquent. There was a good deal of judgment required in the opening of his case. He had to revert to transactions, which, it was, however, sound policy not to suffer to be mixed up with the case before the Court. It was absolutely necessary to mention the transactions; and yet it was necessary to lay them completely aside as soon as mentioned. This was done with as much skill as I ever witnessed in any speaker in the whole course of my life.

The reports in the newspapers cannot be expected to do justice to a trial like this; I hope we shall have it in another form, and that some pains will be taken to give us the speeches of Mr. PHILLIPS, as nearly as possible, word for word.

There was another action against PARKINS, on the part of BYRNE, which was to have come

on on Tuesday; but which was dropped upon PARKINS agreeing to pay the costs. This paying of the costs is an acknowledgment of being in the wrong. The action was for *defamation*; and the agreeing to pay the costs is a strong presumptive proof, that this *taker-up of the cause of the injured* had defamed the man, whose money he had in his hands, to an extent determined by the verdict of Monday. However, I do not choose to rest upon presumption. Here I assert that PARKINS *did* defame BYRNE; that he imputed to him, *conduct the most infamous*; and I assert that I am able to prove this upon PARKINS, and by several witnesses.

I think it necessary to state this publicly, knowing BYRNE, as I do, to be a man of excellent conduct and character. I have now known him personally for a year and four months. Except when I have been absent from London, I have seen him once, at the least, in almost every week; and, by one or another of my family, he has, except while in the Hospital, been seen almost every day. His wife, before her return to Ireland with her small children, was very frequently at my house at Kensington. We have seen husband and wife very frequently together:

we have seen their children with them a great many times. Experience has made us not the most incompetent judges of man and woman-kind; and I declare, that I have very seldom known, in BYRNE'S rank of life, people more respectable than himself and Mrs. BYRNE. I have never seen BYRNE intoxicated even in the smallest degree. I have observed in them both great affection for their children and great anxiety about them; great and sincere gratitude in both; and I shall not presently forget Mrs. COBBETT'S account of the grateful behaviour of poor Mrs. BYRNE when she came to bid her adieu. The poor woman was half broken-hearted with disappointment. There had been plenty of money collected to put her and her children in a way of providing for themselves decently for life. It had been dribbled and drabbed away, so as to do them no good at all. It had cost them no small sum in shoe-leather to dance attendance at the Office "for taking up the cause of the injured." BYRNE, afraid to trust himself, at last, to meet the abuse that he usually received at the office for "taking up the cause of the injured," used to send Mrs. BYRNE, who then had to receive, with the two

pounds, a torrent of abuse upon her husband; though, all the while, the money did not belong to the "office;" but to poor BYRNE, who was now to be calumniated, every time he demanded a single farthing of his *own money*!

It is a great mortification to me, that, after all, BYRNE should not receive the proposed three hundred pounds. Here there is, at any rate, pretty nearly two hundred pounds. It was not my fault; and, indeed, it was the fault of none of us, that PARKINS got this subscription into his hands. Thanks to Mr. HARMER, a part, at any rate, will now be got out of his hands; and I venture to express confident hope, that we shall still be able to put the *three hundred pounds in one sum* (and without any charge for postage and sealing-wax), into the hands of this injured man and his wife.

Not to delay, my proposition is as follows: Mr. HARMER will receive the money from the Office of the "cause of the injured," some time in May or June. I have no opportunity of seeing Mr. HARMER; but if he will consent to be the Treasurer, I think I can confidently anticipate, that he will soon have the other hundred pounds placed in his hands. Sub-

scriptions can be paid in to Mr. C. CLEMENT, at the Office of the Register. He will keep a list of subscriptions, and send or give receipts for what he receives. The list shall be published afterwards, and shall be opened to inspection at any time; and, every Saturday night the receipts shall be paid in to Mr. HARMER. I am very sure that Mr. BELL, the Editor of the Weekly Dispatch, who has done himself a great deal of honour by the part he has taken in this business, will lend us his powerful assistance. It belongs, observe, to us *Englishmen*, and particularly to us PROTESTANTS, to rub the marks out of BYRNE'S back, and to wipe the tears from the eyes of his wife. If I had been a member of the King's Government, I would have used every means in my power to show a horror of the crime of JOCELYN. As a Protestant I would do the same; and with respect to poor BYRNE, who is a Catholic, shall we suffer him to return back to Ireland without carrying with him complete proof that Englishmen are not less willing to succour him who has had to endure the oppression, than they are ready to execrate the unnatural oppressor?

It should be borne in mind tha

BYRNE, though not actually deprived of any of his limbs by the cruelty of his base persecutor, has never recovered from the effects of the dreadful flogging and the long and cruel imprisonment which he endured. Mrs. BYRNE is afflicted with a complaint in the eyes, which is, at times, cause of great inconvenience to her. So that there is every reason to fear that this family may be plunged again into very deep distress, unless something effectual be done in the way of affording them a chance of rubbing along. It would not be right, perhaps, to point out precisely the sort of occupation that BYRNE ought to pursue; but I have not the smallest doubt, that if we make up the sum to a clear three hundred pounds, we shall soon find that we have provided effectually for this family, a thing which it cannot fail to give us heartfelt satisfaction to reflect on.

By this day week I shall be able to state more particularly what is intended to be done with regard to this matter. I shall before that, see or hear from Mr. HARMER; and, perhaps, it will be the better way for no subscription to be paid in at the Office of the Register, until after we have ob-

tained Mr. Harmer's consent to become the Treasurer.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient and
Most humble Servant,
WM. COBBETT.

P. S. I cannot send this letter to the press without observing, that we now know how much money *there is* collected for BYRNE. The Jury of last Monday have settled this point for us. We know that there will be pretty nearly two hundred pounds in hand. From the "Office of the cause of the injured," we never could learn any *thing for certain*. That office never would tell us what the subscription amounted to. This fact was quite enough to convince any reasonable man that the "Office of the cause of the injured" contained more subscription money than it was willing to confess. We now know what we have got; and we have the satisfaction to know, that it amounts to pretty nearly Two-thirds of the desired sum.

PROCEEDINGS IN PARLIAMENT.

BANK NOTES.

IN my last Register I said that I reserved myself, upon this subject, until after *Tuesday*, when there was a motion to be made by PASCOE GRENFELL, ESQUIRE, relative to the amount of Bank of England Notes in circulation. I said, "I most cordially thank thee for this, PASCOE; for this thy motion will assist me to explain to a jolterhead from Somersetshire, whom I know, and the bone of whose skull is thicker than the sole of a ploughman's shoe: thy motion, PASCOE, ESQUIRE, will enable me to make even this man of head of solid bone, perceive one, at least, of those famous *natural causes* which have caused agriculture to be *recovering*." Ah! Pascoe! Pascoe! Alas! I now perceive from a certain paper printed by order of the Collective, that thy motion does not embrace the matter that I expected. It is a motion relative to the *public money which the Bank has in its hands*. This is nothing at all. I would not give a farthing for this. It is a thing in which I feel no more

interest than I feel in the gabblings of Punch, or in the fate of the Dog and Cat affair. It was the Bank's own account of the amount of paper that they have in circulation that I wanted. This would have enabled me to show one of the causes of the rise of the price of corn, and one of the effects of the part repeal of Peel's Bill. However, Mr. MANNING told us, that the Bank had about *twenty millions* out. About twenty millions may mean twenty-one or twenty-two millions. The Old Lady cannot go much further without being emptied of her gold; and, of course, the price of corn can, from *this "natural cause"* go *no higher*. A very great scarcity would carry it higher; but it can be carried no higher than it now is by the paper trick.—Upon a review of all the circumstances, I think that the part repeal of Peel's Bill has added about eighteen pence a bushel to the price of good wheat. The short crop may have added another eighteen pence or two shillings; but a very large crop would bring it down again to four shillings, in spite of the paper trick.—Then, there is the other horn of the dilemma. There are our friends the *manufacturers*, whose "*prosperity and happiness*" are now so great. A great num-

ber of these manufacturers are employed on articles in iron and steel. At a meeting of these, held in Sheffield in December last, for the purpose of petitioning for a repeal of the *combination laws*, it was stated by a Mr. YATES, that these laws enabled masters to oppress the men in a most cruel manner. As a proof of which he stated the almost incredible fall in prices since 1814. For *common knives*, per dozen, in 1814, *two shillings*: in 1823, *nine-pence*. For slit spring knives, in 1814, *three shillings and three-pence*: in 1823, *ten-pence*.—For four-piece knives, in 1814, *five and sixpence*: in 1823, *one and three-pence*.—For six-piece knives, in 1814, *seven and sixpence*: in 1823, *one and nine-pence*! That's enough: that is an answer to all the boasting and all the lying about the "*manufacturing prosperity*."—I have before answered the boasting and lying about the Agricultural prosperity; but one can never too often notice proof of prosperity like the following, taking place, as they every day do, under the envy of surrounding nations, and the admiration of the world! Are there any men thus chained, or *harnessed*, in any other country upon the face of the earth? Yet the cold Scotch me-

taphysicians tell us, that we are in a greatly improved state. All I can say to them is this, that I wish that they were harnessed, and under the driving of an Essex Overseer.

" *Lambeth-street Police News.*

"—On Tuesday, ten seemingly "hard-working poor fellows applied for redress to the Magistrates, under the following circumstances. It appears that "during the winter any of the "men who become chargeable to "the parish of Westham, and "who are capable of work, are "employed by the parish in "drawing sand from a pit, and "shooting it at Stradford, about "a mile distant, for the purpose "of repairing the roads in the "summer. It is drawn from the "pit in carts of a peculiar construction, to each of which is "*harnessed*, after the manner of "*beasts of burden*, ten of these "poor fellows, and for which work "they are allowed a certain remuneration. The present applicants *formed a gang of these slaves*; they did not, however, "entirely object to the work, but "the object of their visit to his "Worship was to complain and "seek redress against the conduct "of the perpetual Overseer of the "parish, who, they now alleged,

"obliged them, under the eye of
 "a regular foreman, to work
 "harder than they were actually
 "capable of performing, as they
 "were *compelled to draw in the*
 "cart, for the distance alluded to,
 "*thirty-two hundred and a half*
 "*of gravel, on a bad road, in part*
 "of which they were ankle-deep
 "in mud. They presented rather
 "a novel spectacle, *having come*
 "*to the Office in their smock-*
 "*frocks, and regularly harnessed*
 "*as when at work.* The Magis-
 "trate, after patiently hearing
 "their revolting story, said, they
 "had better apply to some of the
 "local Magistrates, who might be
 "better acquainted with their
 "case than he was, and therefore
 "had a greater facility of afford-
 "ing them proper redress.—The
 "applicants replied, that they
 "had applied to Mr. Willson the
 "Magistrate at Eastham, on the
 "subject, and it was his opinion
 "that they could not be *compelled*
 "*to work harder than they were*
 "*actually capable of,* and he
 "wrote a letter by them to that
 "effect to Mr. Mandy, but he took
 "no notice whatever of it.—Mr.
 "HARDWICKE here took occasion
 "to observe, that the Magistrates
 "had a power of punishing the
 "Overseer for such conduct, and
 "that as the case was not of his

"district, the applicants had bet-
 "ter apply again to the local
 "Magistrates. They were told,
 "that a bench of Magistrates sits
 "once a fortnight at the Angel in
 "Ilford; that they had better lay
 "their complaint before them, and
 "that then their grievance would
 "be thoroughly investigated and
 "redressed. Upon this sugges-
 "tion they all left the Office."

POOR LAWS.

ON the 17th Mr. NOLAN gave
 notice, that he should on Wednes-
 day next, move for leave to bring
 in a Bill to amend the laws re-
 lating to the relief of the poor.
 I hope that Mr. NOLAN's new Bill
 will differ materially from that
 which he presented last year; for
 that appeared to me to be the
 most monstrous that ever assumed
 the form of a legislative measure.
 The main object of it appeared to
 me to be this, to *throw the whole*
of the militia duty exclusively
upon the poor; or, to put an end
to their receiving of relief. If a
 man were the child of a father
 who had received relief, he was, I
 think, according to this Bill, to
 be punished for it by being com-
 pelled to be a militia-man; while
 his neighbour, whose father had
 not received parish relief, was to
 be *exempted from that duty!* Of

all the propositions ever made to the Parliament, none, in my opinion, ever came up to this. It very far surpasses the project of **LAWYER SCARLETT**. It actually throws the defence of the country upon those whom the country punishes, merely because they want it to afford them a little assistance in the way of food and raiment. **BURKE** told us, that Nobility was the chief defence of Nations. **MR. NOLAN** has found out, however, a defence in pauperism instead of Nobility. This was his project last year: What it is this year, we must patiently wait to see.

GAME LAWS.

MR. WORTLEY obtained leave on the 17th inst. to bring in a Bill to amend the Game Laws. One thing is certain; and that is, that these laws cannot remain in their present state much longer. Battles are continually going on; blood is continually flowing: the 'squires hire the game-keepers just as despotic princes hire their soldiers. The poachers fight to better their condition, to get bread to eat: the game-keepers fight to preserve those bellyfuls of bread, beef and beer that the 'squires give them. As the laws now stand, they are the cause of continual

breaches of the peace, and the cause of filling more than one-third of all the gaols in the kingdom. The thing cannot remain thus. The King boasts of the orderly conduct of his people of England, and the 'squires have got two thousand or thereabouts of his people in his gaols for disturbing them in their sports. This cannot go on for any great length of time. The mass of the people are on the side of the poachers. The best way would be to make the law what it was before the "Good old King" came to the throne. To talk of making game property, is monstrous. To talk of transporting men for being in pursuit of animals which are the common right of all men, is still more monstrous. However, I shall insert **MR. WORTLEY's** own description of his proposed measure; and, for the present, leave the matter there: there will be plenty of opportunities for returning to it. The subject is of the greatest importance. I will just add, that **MR. WORTLEY** is surprisingly deceived, if he think that any thing that the Parliament can do or that any body else can do, will make it as *disreputable to take game*, as to take wood or turnips. Shallow, indeed, must that man be, who does not perceive, that every one

but an idiot can clearly distinguish the wide difference in the two cases. Wood and turnips, are lying or growing on our own land. They are *ours*. They are on our land to-day and will be there again to-morrow. They are completely within our control. We have acquired them, by rearing, by purchase, or by descent; and we can prove the fact of acquisition. How completely different is it with regard to game! But, let us hear Mr. WORTLEY, and reserve ourselves for future stages of his Bill.

Mr. S. WORTLEY rose, in pursuance of his notice, to move for leave to bring in a Bill to Amend the Laws for the Preservation of Game; and though he knew (he said) that the House was anxious to get to the very important business that was fixed for the evening, he could not pass over his motion without some remarks, for there could be no subject more important to the comfort, to the morals, and to the well-being of the people of this country, than that to which it related [hear, hear!]. He professed himself, from his station in life, to be a Country Gentleman, and he had been a strict preserver of game in a part of the country where it was extremely difficult to preserve it; yet he was persuaded that the fears of his brother Country Gentlemen on this subject were perfectly unfounded, and that means might be adopted for the preservation of game with the greatest ease, which should be at once more effectual and less productive of misery than those now resorted to. The means which he proposed to adopt were extremely simple. Hitherto game had not been property.

The principle of his Bill was to bring game as near to property as it was possible consistently with the nature of it to do. A consequence of this would be, that permission would be given to those who had game, to dispose of it as they thought fit. It was madness to suppose that, whatever laws they might make, game would not be sold, and that the market would not in some way or other be supplied, in point of fact, abundantly [hear, hear!]. It was impossible, after the Report of the Committee of the House which had sat last Session, that there could be even any delicacy of feeling on this subject. The purchase of game was, as had been declared of the sale of seats in that House, as open as the sun at noon-day, and no blame whatever attached to the persons who pursued a practice so legalized by custom. God forbid that it should be otherwise, for a great number of their most respectable friends in the manufacturing towns were supplied in this way. His Bill would make game the property of those who were owners of the land; his intention, however, was, that no persons should kill it but those who had licences to do so. His intention also, was to do away with all qualifications, or rather to reduce the law respecting them, as nearly as possible, to the state of the law in Scotland, which he had never heard complained of by any one connected with that country. In Scotland every man who had a plough-gate of land, had a right to give other persons leave to come and shoot on it. He should not now enter into the inquiry what quantity of land should give this right. He should also propose, that every person, having a certain quantity of land, might appoint as many persons, as game-keepers, to kill game, as he pleased. At present, Lords of Manors only had a right to appoint game-keepers; and a Lord of a Manor could only appoint one game-keeper, with a right to kill game, though he might appoint others to preserve it. Persons, who trespass-

ed, to kill game, he should make liable to a pecuniary penalty, to be levied summarily; and if, when warned to leave a property, they did not go off, they would be liable to be apprehended. If they refused to give their names, they would be liable to be apprehended; and if they gave false names, they would be liable, on information, to severer penalties.—He relied much on the change of feeling which would be produced by making game *property saleable in a lawful manner*; and it would, he imagined, ere long, become as *disreputable to steal game* as to steal wood or turnips. The House might be desirous of knowing how the Bill would deal with those persons who now carried on an occupation which led them into more vice and misery than any other occupation, he meant poaching. On those who went out at night to kill game he should impose a penalty, or imprisonment, which would go on increasing till the third conviction, which would subject the offender to *transportation*. After the first offence, he proposed that the offender should be *bound in recognizances*, and securities of his friends, that he would not again offend in like manner. The same plan was resorted to in other cases, and it was always found to have the best effect; for nothing was so likely to prevent a man from violating the law, as the idea that his friends were bound for him as well as himself. He was not aware that it was necessary for him now to enter further into details. The guiding principle of the Bill, he repeated, would be, that game should be brought as nearly as possible to other property. He saw an Honourable Friend of his (Sir J. Shelley) opposite to him, and he entreated him and others who thought, that because there was game now, there was not likely to be any if an alteration were made in the law, to consider whether the present mode were likely long effectually to preserve it, whether poachers were not daily and hourly increasing, and in spite of their heap-

ing law on law, and severity on severity. He knew some gentlemen had said respecting the evidence taken before the Committee, that it might be all very true, but that they heard nothing of the kind before. Now he took leave to assure them, that the more they made inquiries on the subject, the more they would find the evidence to be strictly true. He concluded by moving for leave to bring in a Bill to amend the laws relating to the preservation of game [hear, hear!]

Sir JOHN SHELLEY said he did not rise to oppose the motion, or to object to the bringing in the Bill, but as he conceived that the effect of it would be to destroy all field sports, he wished to take the sense of the House on the second reading of it. He hoped his Honourable Friend would defer it to such a time that the Members who were interested in the subject would be able to attend. The Bill would, he was persuaded, not only destroy game, but fox-hunting.

Mr. S. WORTLEY said, he was also anxious to have the opinions of all the Members of the House; but it was to be recollected that there was another interested in the speedy settlement of the question—the public:—Leave given.

FATAL EFFECTS OF SLOVENLINESS.

IN my English Grammar, I earnestly exhort my Son, always to write in a plain hand; because if what you write cannot be understood, you write in vain; and, if the meaning be *picked out*;

that is to say, come at with difficulty, there is a waste of time; and time is property, and, indeed, a part of life itself. The other day, when I first advertised my Trees for sale, I besought gentlemen to write to me in a plain hand; to write the dates and the signatures in a plain hand, at any rate. Here was an affair of *proper names*, both of persons and places; and, there was to be a real proceeding of some consequence, to be produced by each letter. In such a case, not to write in a plain hand, was, in effect, voluntarily to incur the risk, and the manifest risk, of not receiving that which was written for. Nevertheless, I received some letters which lay unanswered for a good while, owing to the bad hand writing. One I could by no means make out. The name of the writer was plain enough; but the word which was written as the name of the place was, according to the reading of ten different persons, *Lancern*; we hunted Gazetteer, Book of Roads, and, at last, came to the conclusion that it must be some place in Ireland. Very little of this hunting would have taken place, had not the letter contained *some Bank Notes*. However, in spite of all our efforts to discover what *Lancern* meant, we

were obliged to give the thing up, and to pocket the Bank Notes for our trouble. Yesterday, however, comes, by the *twopenny post*, a little blotted note, with a signature to it, which appears to be the name of a post-master; this note begins by saying, "Sir, Mr. — of Lancing, Sussex." And then the note goes on to say, that this Mr. — wrote to me some time ago, inclosing some money, and it concludes thus: "the money was put into *our box*." The devil of *any date at all* was there to this note. By the words "our box," discovered that the writer was a post-master. By the sum of money, I knew that this *Lancing* was this very *Lancern* that had so plagued and puzzled us. But, upon again hunting through Gazetteer, Book of Roads, Book of Fairs, &c. &c. we can find out no such place as *Lancing*. Happily, however, we had got the County of Sussex. That word with two s's in the middle and an x at the end, made us know what County we had got into, at any rate. We then took the Book of Roads, and went to the towns on the cross roads under letter L, stopping to read every word opposite the word *Sussex*. We soon came to the word **LAUNCING!**—The Gentleman

wished to have some Apple-trees, which he can yet have, by mere accident; but nothing like so fine as those would have been which he would have had, if his letter had been dated in a plain manner. I give this as a practical illustration of the mischievous consequences of slovenliness in writing. But, there is another thing to be well considered; and that is, that nobody pays *so much attention* to a slovenly as to a neat and plain piece of writing. It is an invariable rule with me to fling into the fire at once any blurred or dirty letter that I receive, and every letter that is written *across the writing*, let such letter come from whom it may. People that write in this manner are idle people. What they put upon paper is unworthy of occupying the time of any persons not like themselves. This seems, at first sight, to be a very trifling matter; but if we duly reflect on it we shall find it a matter of considerable importance. At any rate, as I am certain, that I never in my life-time sent a slovenly scrawl to any person whatever, I beseech those who do me the honour to write to me, to write to me in a hand that will not compel me to waste my time, and expose me to the risk of appear-

ing to be guilty of negligence or ill-manners. To young men I would observe, that Slovenliness is no mark of gentility; that amongst their most valuable possessions is their *time*; and I beg them to consider how large a portion of their time is consumed in deciphering even their own bad writing. The hand-writing is, with me, a great thing. I cannot believe that slovenliness of hand-writing can exist without a general slovenliness in the conducting of affairs. Of this, at any rate, I am certain; and that is, that I never should have done a quarter part of what I have done, if to write a plain hand had not been the constant habit of my life. It has cost *many thousands of pounds less* to print from my manuscript, than it would have cost to print from the manuscript of almost any other man. Then, again, as to time: hundreds upon hundreds of articles written by me, could not have been printed *soon enough*, if they had been in manuscript like that of writers in general. Habit has made me write fast, and plain, at the same time; and every man will have the same habit, if he resolutely persevere in *writing plain*. To write plain is the great thing: writing fast comes of itself.

SIR THOMAS BEEVOR'S PROPOSAL.

I HAVE this day (19th Feb.) written to Sir THOMAS BEEVOR, to give him my opinion, and to make to him a request, on the subject of the proposed Meeting on the 2d of March. It now appears, that there will be *no dissolution this year*, unless in consequence of a *casualty* by no means to be anticipated. My opinion is, therefore, that no steps, in the matter proposed to be agitated on the 2d of March, ought to be taken at present. The main thing is to raise a sum sufficient to meet necessary expenses; but, it would be useless to raise a parcel of money *to lie useless*; and, indeed, few men would like to subscribe with that prospect before them.

I have, therefore, requested Sir THOMAS BEEVOR to postpone the Meeting, until we see a *dissolution manifestly approaching us*. No man can desire any thing much more than I desire to be in Parliament. I have given all the encouragement in my power to those who were for the Meeting on the 2d of March. But, unless a dissolution were manifestly *at hand*, I think that the attempt would be in vain. I think, therefore, that the readers of the Register may conclude, *that the intended Meeting will not take place*.—All my friends are greatly indebted to Sir Thomas Beavor; but, none of them so much as his

Most obliged and

Most obedient Servant,

W^m. COBBETT.

MARKETS.

Average Prices of CORN throughout ENGLAND, for the week ending 7th Feb.

Per Quarter.	s.	d.
Wheat	64	7
Rye	39	4
Barley	35	6
Oats	24	10
Beans	40	7
Peas	40	1

Corn Exchange, Mark Lane.

Quantities and Prices of British Corn, &c. sold and delivered in this Market, during the week ended Saturday, 7th Feb.

Qrs.	£.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wheat. . 8,180 for 28,789	14	11	Average, 70	4	
Barley. . 5,162.	10,589	16	1.	41	0
Oats . . 7,523.	11,221	15	3.	29	9
Rye. . . 1,289.	2,245	11	9.	34	10
Beans . . 2,158.	4,721	2	6.	43	9
Peas. . . 1,243.	2,717	0	1.	46	8

Friday Feb 13.—The arrivals of all sorts of Grain this week are considerable. Wheat has found a few buyers to-day at 1s. to 2s. per quarter reduction from the terms of Monday last, but the trade ended rather better at the close. Barley is also 1s. to 2s. per quarter cheaper. Beans are a very heavy sale, and 2s. per quarter lower. There is now abundance of Oats here, and the trade slack at a decline of 1s. to 2s. per quarter from the prices of Monday last.

Monday, Feb. 16.—Last week furnished this market with the largest supply of Grain in general that has been received since last harvest. This morning there is a good quantity of Wheat, Barley, Beans, and Peas, from Essex, Kent, and Suffolk, and several additional ships fresh up from the North with Oats. There has been a large attendance of buyers of all descriptions to-day. Wheat, which had fallen 2s. to 3s. per quarter on Wednesday and Friday last, has fully recovered itself, and sells freely to-day on equal terms to those quoted last Monday, in consequence of extensive sales of this article for re-shipping.

Barley is reported 1s. per quarter lower, but there has been a considerable trade for this article to-day. Beans are very dull, and 2s. to 3s. per qr. cheaper. Peas of both sorts are 1s. per qr. lower. There is an abundant quantity of Oats now here, and the trade has been heavy since this day week, at a reduction of 1s. to 2s. per qr., but many sales have been made to-day at this decline. Flour is unaltered.

Prices on board Ship as under.

Wheat, red, (old)	64s. to 71s.
— white, (old)	50s. — 78s.
— red, (new)	45s. — 52s.
— fine	54s. — 58s.
— superfine	60s. — 65s.
— white, (new)	52s. — 54s.
— fine	56s. — 63s.
— superfine	67s. — 70s.
Flour, per sack	60s. to 65s.
— Seconds	58s. — 62s.
— North Country	50s. — 54s.

ACCOUNT OF WHEAT, &c. ARRIVED IN THE PORT OF LONDON,
From February 9 to February 14, both inclusive.

<i>Whence</i>	Wheat.	Barley.	Malt.	Oats.	Beans.	Flour.
Aberdeen .....	.....	.....	.....	439	.....	.....
Aldbrough	1573	3152	80	20	543	2
Alemouth	144	.....	.....	694	.....	.....
Banff .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Berwick .....	.....	.....	.....	100	.....	.....
Boston	10	.....	.....	13047	.....	.....
Bridport .....	.....	240	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bridlington .....	.....	.....	.....	472	.....	.....
Cowes .....	.....	230	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dundee	102	.....	.....	10	.....	.....
Colchester	450	539	1254	20	218	1516
Harwich	1836	776	1358	5	312	1162
Leigh	583	166	12	165	404	.....
Maldon	1591	201	576	56	353	3192
Exeter .....	.....	.....	.....	60	.....	.....
Gainsborough .....	.....	.....	.....	120	.....	2
Grimsby .....	.....	.....	.....	1073	.....	.....
Hastings	139	74	.....	12	14	.....
Hull	60	.....	.....	4910	.....	300
Ipswich	339	910	925	120	113	920
Kent	1992	1681	394	634	755	2005
Louth .....	.....	.....	.....	430	.....	.....
Lynn	455	3	812	218	.....	388
Montrose .....	.....	.....	.....	14	.....	.....
Newport .....	.....	150	.....	.....	.....	50
Plymouth .....	.....	.....	.....	270	.....	.....
Rye	300	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Scarborough .....	.....	.....	.....	640	.....	.....
Spalding .....	.....	.....	136	390	.....	200
Stockton .....	.....	.....	.....	105	.....	1250
Shoreham .....	.....	191	53	.....	.....	20
Southwold	678	543	30	.....	69	.....
Southampton	50	.....	100	.....	.....	31
Wells	469	130	.....	.....	.....	62
Weymouth .....	.....	562	.....	36	.....	.....
Whitby .....	.....	.....	.....	350	.....	.....
Wisbeach	800	.....	.....	2160	.....	299
Woodbridge	750	1958	35	.....	297	471
Yarmouth	128	1012	1096	230	.....	3112
Waterford .....	.....	.....	.....	465	.....	.....
Youghall .....	.....	.....	.....	965	.....	.....
Total	12440	12518	6861	28230	3078	14982

Aggregate Quantity of other kinds of Pulse imported during the Week :

Rye, 70; Pease, 1690; Tares, 168; Linseed, 560; Rapeseed, 233;

Brank, 571; Mustard, 30; Flax, —; and Seeds, 634 quarters.

SEEDS, &c.

Price on board Ship as under.

	s.	s.
Clover, red, Foreign per cwt	55	100
— white, ditto..ditto ..	60	94
— red, English, ditto ..	68	106
— white, ditto..ditto ..	70	96
Rye Grass per qr...	26	42
Turnip, new, white..per bush.	10	12
— red & green ..ditto..	10	16
— yellow Swedes ditto..	9	11
Mustard, white .....ditto..	7	11
— brown.....ditto..	8	14
Carraway per cwt	50	52
Coriander.....ditto ..	10	13
Sanfoin.....per qr...	30	42
Trefoil per cwt	24	36
Ribgrass ditto ..	35	56
Canary, common ..per qr...	38	40
— fine ditto ..	42	52
Tares per bush.	8	12
Hempseed per qr...	40	45
Linseed for crushing		
Foreign ditto ..	34	43
— fine English		
for sowing ditto ..	40	48
Rapeseed, 30l. to 32l. per last.		
Linseed Oil Cake, 12l.—12l.12s. per 1000		
Rape Cake, 6l. 0s. to 7l. 0s. per ton.		

City, 18 February 1824.

BACON.

The holders of Bacon are very anxious to sell at the nominal prices; but few buyers are to be found. The stock is heavy, and as the price is high it will produce mischief, if there be a plen-

tiful supply of butcher's meat during the Spring.—On board, 50s.—Landed, 50s. to 52s.

BUTTER.

There is little variation in the prices of Butter. The stock is great, and a considerable part of it is become stale, from having been imported too early. Money is lost by every part of it.

CHEESE.

The prices of Cheese remain as last week.

Price of Bread.—The price of the 4lb. Loaf is stated at 11d. by the full-priced Bakers.

SMITHFIELD, Monday, Feb. 16.

Per Stone of 3 pounds (alive).

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Beef	3	2	to 4	4
Mutton.....	4	0	— 4	8
Veal.....	5	0	— 6	0
Pork.....	4	8	— 5	4

Beasts ... 2,874 | Sheep ... 18,050
Calves 120 | Pigs 200

NEWGATE (same day).

Per Stone of 3 pounds (dead).

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Beef.....	2	8	to 3	8
Mutton.....	3	0	— 3	10
Veal.....	3	4	— 5	4
Pork.....	3	8	— 5	8

LEADENHALL, Monday, Feb. 16.

Per Stone of 8 pounds (dead).

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Beef.....	2	8	to	3 8
Mutton.....	3	0	—	4 0
Veal.....	3	8	—	5 8
Pork.....	4	0	—	5 4

HAY and STRAW, per Load.

Smithfield.—Hay....80s. to 105s.
 Straw...40s. to 45s.
 Clover 100s. to 126s.

St. James's.—Hay....68s. to 126s.
 Straw...36s. to 51s.
 Clover...90s. to 126s.

Whitechapel.—Hay....90s. to 110s.
 Straw...42s. to 48s.
 Clover 100s. to 130s.

COUNTRY CORN MARKETS.

By the QUARTER, excepting where otherwise named; from Wednesday to Saturday last, inclusive.

The Scotch Markets are the Returns of the Week before.

	Wheat.			Barley.			Oats.			Beans.			Pease.		
	s.	s.	d.	s.	s.	d.	s.	s.	d.	s.	s.	d.	s.	s.	d.
Aylesbury	56	72	0	32	34	0	24	26	0	34	43	0	40	42	0
Banbury	56	66	8	33	35	6	24	30	0	36	48	0	0	0	0
Basingstoke.....	62	70	0	30	35	0	22	25	0	40	50	0	0	0	0
Chelmsford.....	60	74	0	35	40	0	24	30	0	34	44	0	36	42	0
Derby.....	60	78	0	20	41	0	24	32	0	32	50	0	0	0	0
Devizes	48	72	0	30	39	0	22	28	0	36	50	0	0	0	0
Dorchester.....	50	74	0	26	36	0	20	25	0	46	52	0	0	0	0
Exeter.....	64	72	0	28	38	0	16	26	0	40	44	0	0	0	0
Guildford.....	64	82	0	32	35	6	23	32	0	40	48	0	39	43	0
Henley	60	82	0	30	43	0	21	28	0	38	42	0	38	41	0
Horncastle.....	56	65	0	28	35	0	20	30	0	36	50	0	35	40	0
Hungerford.....	50	74	0	25	35	0	19	32	0	34	45	0	0	0	0
Lewes	60	72	0	37	0	0	24	26	0	40	0	0	0	0	0
Lynn	54	66	0	32	40	0	22	28	0	42	44	0	40	52	0
Newbury	48	79	0	25	34	0	20	30	0	38	48	0	38	48	0
Newcastle	50	72	0	36	44	0	22	30	0	38	44	0	38	52	0
Northampton.....	58	60	0	29	34	0	20	24	0	38	40	0	0	0	0
Nottingham	59	0	0	39	0	0	26	0	0	42	0	0	0	0	0
Reading	52	82	0	26	40	0	19	28	0	34	44	0	36	46	0
Sherborne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stamford.....	54	64	0	30	39	0	20	25	0	38	50	0	0	0	0
Swansea	64	0	0	34	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Truro	61	0	0	34	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uxbridge.....	52	78	0	32	38	0	22	30	0	36	44	0	34	43	0
Warminster	46	75	0	22	40	0	20	28	0	42	52	0	0	0	0
Winchester	52	76	0	30	35	0	20	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yarmouth.....	66	71	0	38	40	0	26	30	0	40	44	0	40	52	0
Dalkeith *	25	35	0	21	31	0	13	26	0	18	25	0	18	25	0
Haddington*	29	40	0	24	34	0	23	27	0	21	25	6	21	25	0

* Dalkeith and Haddington are given by the boll.—The Scotch boll for Wheat, Rye, Pease, and Beans, is three per cent. more than 4 bushels. The boll of Barley and Oats, is about 6 bushels Winchester, or as 6 to 8 compared with the English quarter.

Liverpool, Feb. 10.—The trade being unwilling, during the past week, to purchase Wheats, even at a reduction from last Tuesday's prices of 2d. to 3d. per 70 lbs. there was in consequence little or no business done throughout that period. And at this day's market, which was extremely dull for each article of the trade, Wheats might have been purchased at 3d. to 6d. per 70 lbs. and Oats 1d. to 2d. per 45 lbs. below the quotations of this day se'nnight.

Imported into Liverpool from the 3d to the 9th Feb. 1824, inclusive:—Wheat, 1321; Oats, 7834; Barley, 103; Malt, 631; Beans, 590; and Peas, 172 quarters. Oatmeal, 171 packs, per 240 lbs. Flour, 140 sacks, and 1000 barrels.

Norwich, Feb. 14.—A plentiful supply of samples of all kinds of Grain, but owing to the reluctance to buy in the London markets, the Merchants were not disposed to purchase but at a reduction in price from last week.—Wheat, 58s. to 68s.; and Barley, 29s. to 37s. per quarter. In other Grain but little alteration.

Bristol, Feb. 14.—The Corn market here is extremely dull, and very little business doing at the following prices:—Best Wheat from 8s. 9d. to 9s.; inferior ditto, 6s. to 7s. 9d.; Barley, 2s. 10d. to 4s. 10½d.; Beans, 3s. to 5s. 9d.; Oats, 2s. to 3s. 3d.; and Malt, 4s. 6d. to 7s. 3d. per bushel. Flour, best Seconds, 30s. to 58s. per bag.

Birmingham, Feb. 12.—We are not abundantly supplied with any article of the trade, and although we had a dull market, no material alteration can be noted in prices. The stocks in the hands of the consumers are considered to be light, and the holders are firm in their demands. Towards the close of the market there was considerable business done, at within 1s. to 2s. of last currency.

Ipswich, Feb. 14.—Our market to-day was thinly supplied with all Grain, and prices were rather lower. General currency as follows:—Wheat, 58s. to 71s.; Barley, 34s. to 40s.; Beans, 40s. to 42s.; Peas, 39s. to 40s.; and Oats, 28s. to 30s. per quarter.

Wisbech, Feb. 14.—Our Corn market was again this day very dull in the sale of most articles, particularly Wheat, the highest price of which from 62s. to 64s. per quarter. Oats were a trifle cheaper, as were also New Beans.

Boston, Feb. 11.—This day's market has not been so brisk as we have had for some time past. The farmers in this neighbourhood have been bringing forward their Corn briskly to market, on account of the flourishing state of the trade, and have been very reluctant at taking this day's prices, Wheat having dropped from 3s. to 5s. per quarter, and Oats were heavy on sale at full 2s. lower.—Wheat, 60s. to 68s.; Oats, 20s. to 26s.; Beans, new, 30s. to 40s.; and old ditto, 50s. to 54s. per quarter.

Malton, Feb. 14.—Wheat, 68s. to 72s. per quarter, five stone per bushel. Barley, 36s. to 40s. per quarter. Oats, 13d. to 14d. per stone.

Wakefield, Feb. 13.—We had again an immense arrival of Wheat, with a fair quantity of other Grain; fine Wheats, if sales are forced, must be quoted 2s. to 3s. per quarter lower; second and inferior sorts are nearly unsaleable at a much greater reduction. Meal Oats are dull, and full 1d. per stone lower. Shelling 2s. to 3s. per load lower. Malting Barley of every description is full 1s. to 2s. per quarter lower. Beans, both old and new, full 2s. to 3s. per quarter lower. Seed Oats continue to be inquired after: also Seed Beans and Maple Peas. In Malt and Rapeseed no material alteration. Flour is 2s. per bag cheaper.—Wheat, 64s. to 76s. per quarter; Meal Oats, 15d. to 16d. per stone of 14 lbs.; Shelling, 39s. to 40s. per load of 261 lbs.; Barley, 39s. to 43s.; Beans, old and new, 54s. to 63s. 63 lbs. per bushel; Maple Peas, 58s. to 60s.; Tares, 76s. to 84s. per quarter; Malt, 44s. to 50s. per load of 6 bushels; Flour, 58s. to 60s. per sack of 280 lbs.; and Rapeseed, 32l. to 33l. per last.

COUNTRY CATTLE AND MEAT MARKETS, &c.

Norwich Castle Meadow, Feb. 14.—A very good show of lean Bullocks and Sheep, and many sales effected.—Good Hoggetts fetched 28s. per head; prices of lean Beasts, 4s. to 4s. 6d. per stone of 14 lbs.

Horncastle, Feb. 14.—Beef 6s. to 6s. 6d. per stone of 14 lbs.; Mutton, 5d. to 6d.; Pork 6d. to 6½d.; and Veal 6d. to 8d. per lb.

Bristol, Feb. 12.—Beef 5d. to 5½d.; Mutton 5½d. to 6d.; and Pork 4½d. to 5d. per lb. sinking offal.

Malton, Feb. 14.—Meat in the shambles:—Beef 4½d. to 6d.; Mutton 4½d. to 5½d.; Pork 4½d. to 6d.; and Veal 5d. to 6½d. per lb. Fresh Butter, 13d. to 14d. per lb. Bacon Sides, 6s. to 6s. 6d.; Hams, 6s. 6d. to 8s. 3d. per stone.

At *Wakefield Cattle Market* last week there was a large supply both of Beasts and Sheep, but the attendance of buyers being also considerable, a tolerably brisk sale was the consequence, without any sensible diminution in the price of Beef. Mutton experienced a little fall.—Beasts, 550; Sheep, 10,200.

Skipton Fortnight Fair, Feb. 10.—Our supply this morning, particularly of Beef and Mutton, is abundant; still both those articles are on the rise, the former 2d. and the latter 4d. per stone dearer; but in Veal and Pork we have no alteration.

A very numerous show of Cattle crowded *Shrewsbury Fair* on Wednesday, and there were a great many buyers from Birmingham and Liverpool. Fat Beasts obtained 5d. and 5½d. per lb. and a few very choice animals 6d. Store Bullocks sold readily; indeed every thing was disposed of. Fat Sheep were abundant, and sold at 5½d. to 6d. Fat Pigs experienced not so brisk a demand as was expected; prices 5d. to 5½d.; Stores were tolerably well sold. Of Butter a large quantity remained unsold; lumps 8d. to 8½d. per lb.; tubs 9d. to 9½d. The Marts were cleared of Cheese, except a few lots of Skim. Best Dairies 67s. to 65s. per cwt.; middling qualities 50s. to 55s.; Skim 38s. to 45s. Hams 7d. per lb.

AVERAGE PRICE OF CORN, sold in the Maritime Counties of England and Wales, for the Week ended February 7, 1824.

	Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
London	68	8	38	0	28	1
Essex	64	9	35	0	25	0
Kent.....	69	1	37	3	26	4
Sussex	62	10	34	1	22	11
Suffolk.....	64	5	35	2	25	5
Cambridgeshire	63	5	33	5	22	0
Norfolk	62	6	34	10	24	5
Lincolnshire	65	1	34	9	23	10
Yorkshire	63	7	33	9	22	0
Durham	63	1	32	0	25	4
Northumberland	62	1	34	11	26	6
Cumberland	56	8	35	6	26	3
Westmoreland	56	11	35	8	26	3
Lancashire	65	5	34	4	27	7
Cheshire	64	11	45	2	24	9
Gloucestershire.....	62	4	32	0	23	9
Somersetshire	65	3	31	3	20	5
Monmouthshire	63	6	35	9	18	0
Devonshire	67	3	31	1	19	3
Cornwall	61	3	31	2	20	10
Dorsetshire	63	8	31	2	21	10
Hampshire	64	10	31	8	21	11
North Wales	68	5	38	10	20	6
South Wales	58	4	32	6	19	9

Price of HOPS, per Cwt. in the BOROUGH.

Monday, Feb. 16. — Our Hop Market remains in the same state as last, but little doing. Our accounts from the plantations generally state, through the middle Kent districts, that the late blight has much injured the bines, particularly the Goldings, as upon digging it appears one-fifth are dead or much cankered, and those which are alive are very weak; but this will be better ascertained in a month, if the weather permits, when the hills will be opened for cutting the bines.

Maidstone, Feb. 12.—Our Hop trade continues just as before. There does not appear any demand, nor do we expect much alteration at present.

Worcester, Feb. 7. — Thirty-four pockets of Old Hops were this day weighed in our market, Scarcely any thing doing.—1822's, 7*l.* 18*s.* to 8*l.* 8*s.*

COTTON MARKET.

Friday, Feb. 13. — The Cotton market has assumed a more decided appearance of improvement this week; very little, except the dear piles of the last East India sale, is now to be had without an advance. The sales amount to about 1,500 bales, viz.—550 Bengals, 5½*d.* middling, to 5¼*d.* fair, 6*d.* to 6¼*d.* for good fair to good; 300 Surats, 6¼*d.* ordinary, 6¼*d.* fair, 6½*d.* good fair, 7*d.* for good; 150 Madras, 6¼*d.* good fair—all in bond. And duty paid, 500 Pernamis 11¼*d.*